

Amendments to the Claims

1(currently amended): In an autoloading gun construction having ~~the~~
~~bore~~ a breech end of a barrel assembled in ~~the~~ a forward end portion of a
~~bore~~ of a barrel extension means, which extension means has an ~~its~~ inner end
portion formed with a flared shell receiving cavity entry port into said bore
for rapidly receiving cartridges (244), missile end first, and guiding them
into said ~~bore~~ breech end, wherein said extension means is positioned
between and secured by joint structure to wall sections of two opposing
receiver plates of a receiver section, and wherein said wall sections each has
a substantially planar outer surface, ~~the improvement~~ said joint structure
comprising cooperating first edge portions of locator lands projecting
outwardly from opposite sides of said barrel extension means, and second
edge portions of aperture means formed thru each said wall section, wherein
said lands extend into said aperture means and wherein said first and second
edge portions are welded together, and weld means formed between edge
portions of each said aperture means and adjacent portions of said extension
means.

2(currently amended): The gun construction of claim 1 wherein each
said land means are provided on said adjacent portions of said extension
means and extend extends into an adjacent ~~each said~~ aperture means
substantially to the plane of each said outer surface[[,]] ~~said land means~~
~~providing second edge portions adjacent said first edge portions for~~
enhancing ~~said weld~~ strength therebetween.

3(currently amended): The gun construction of claim 2 wherein said
wall sections and said barrel extension means are of stainless steel and
wherein said first and second edge portions ~~each said aperture means and its~~

~~adjacent land means~~ are each dimensioned to ~~provide cooperating locator shoulder means on said aperture means and land means~~ to position said barrel extension means precisely at a specific location between said wall sections for welding.

4(currently amended): The gun construction of claim 1 wherein cooperating elements of connector means are provided on said breech end of said barrel and in said forward end of said bore barrel extension means whereby said barrel can be removed from said barrel extension means.

5(currently amended): The gun construction of claim 4 wherein said cooperating elements comprise aligned slot means in ~~the~~ an outer surface of said breech end of said barrel and in wall portions forming ~~the~~ an inner surface of said ~~bore~~ barrel extension means, and spring clip means having arm means inserted thru said aligned slot means and adapted to bear laterally against side portions of each said slot means to thereby prevent longitudinal movement of said barrel with respect to said barrel extension means.

6(currently amended): The gun construction of claim 5 wherein clamping means is provided on said barrel extension means for tightening portions of said barrel extension means around said breech end of said barrel.

7(currently amended): The gun construction of claim 2 wherein cooperating elements of removable connector means are provided on said breech end of said barrel and in ~~said~~ a barrel receiving bore in said forward end portion of said barrel extension means whereby said barrel can be removed from said barrel extension means.

8(currently amended): The gun construction of claim 7 wherein said cooperating elements comprise aligned slot means in ~~the~~ an outer surface of said breech end of said barrel and in wall portions forming the inner surface

of said barrel receiving bore, and spring clip means having arm means inserted thru said aligned slot means and adapted to bear laterally against side portions of each said slot means to thereby prevent longitudinal movement of said barrel with respect to said barrel extension means.

9(currently amended): The gun construction of claim 8 wherein clamping means is provided on said barrel extension means for tightening portions of said barrel extension means around said breech end of said barrel.

10(currently amended): The gun construction of claim 9 where said clamping means comprises slot means formed substantially longitudinally in wall means defining said forward portion of said barrel extension means and said barrel receiving bore whereby said wall means can be flexed inwardly to reduce the bore diameter of said barrel receiving bore, and tightening means is provided and adapted to engage portions of said wall means on either side of said slot means ~~an~~ and operable to reduce the width of said slot means to flex said wall means inwardly into tight engagement with the breech end of said barrel.